

Proposed Renewal of Water Quality Permit for PGE Beaver Generating Station File #70805



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Northwest Region Water Quality Program

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The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on this proposed minor - industrial permit renewal.

DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way ODEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities. ODEQ issues permits to regulate the type and amount of water-borne pollutants produced at a regulated facility.

Comments due:

Written comments are due at **5 p.m., December 24, 2007.**

Where can I send my comments?

Where can I get technical information?

Garry Sage, EIT, Senior Engineering Technician
(503) 229-5690 or (800) 452-4011 (Toll Free)

(503) 229-6957 (Fax Number)

Sage.garry@deq.state.or.us (E-mail address)

Northwest Region – Portland Office
2020 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 400, Portland, OR
97201

How can I review documents?

You can review electronic versions of the draft permit and review report at the following links:

[Draft Permit](#)
[Review Report](#)

You can review hard copies of the draft permit and related documents at ODEQ's Northwest Regional Office located in Portland, Oregon. For a review appointment please call Ms. Lesley Betts at (503) 229-5552.

What is proposed?

ODEQ proposes to renew a Water Quality permit for the Portland General Electric's (PGE's) Beaver Generating Facility. ODEQ

and PGE are inviting public comment on the proposed permitting action. During the comment period the public is invited to make comments related to specific conditions within the proposed permit.

The ODEQ proposes to renew PGE's NPDES permit. The current permit has a Source Category listing of "Minor-Industrial." The renewal permit is essentially the current permit with minor clarifications included. The PGE Beaver Generating Facility is a combined cycle electric generating plant that consists of six gas turbine generators, heat recovery, and a steam turbine generator. The plant is rated at 520 megawatts (MW). It is primarily a peak load power plant that operates intermittently, whenever power generation is economically viable. The plant discharges to the Columbia River through Outfall 001 located at RM 53. The discharge is a mixture of cooling water, demineralizer back-wash, neutralization tank effluent, and oil-water separator effluent.

Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a Water Quality permit to renew that permit every 5 years. Upon renewal, this permit will be effective for 5 years, expiring on November 30, 2012.

Who is the applicant?

Portland General Electric (PGE)
121 S.W. Salmon Street, 3WTCR05
Portland, OR 97204

Where is the facility located?

The Beaver facility is located north of the City of Clatskanie on the south bank of the Columbia River.

Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

What affect does the PGE facility have on Water Quality?

The Beaver Generating Plant discharges facility wastewater to the Columbia River at RM 53.

What legal requirements apply?

The ODEQ is issuing this permit pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B.050; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, PL 92-500; and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 041.

How does ODEQ determine the requirements listed in the permit?

Various federal and state regulations apply to the PGE facility. Permit requirements are based on the amount of waste that can be discharged to the Columbia River without jeopardizing beneficial uses, and water quality standards and criteria. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances discharged by PGE's Beaver Generating Plant?

Discharges from PGE's facility must be treated to levels compatible with the beneficial uses of the Columbia River. The PGE permit sets limits on total suspended solids (TSS), Oil & grease, pH, maximum flow, and excess thermal load. Internal waste streams are monitored for additional pollutants including free available chlorine, copper, and iron.

How are the permitted substances measured?

Permitted substances are sampled, measured, and tested according to State approved standard methods.

Compliance history:

On February 6, 2004 ODEQ issued a Notice of Noncompliance to the Beaver facility for an unauthorized discharge of metal cleaning waste water to holding ponds at the facility; a Class II violation. No other permit violations have been documented during the last 5-year permit period.

What are the special conditions of this permit?

Conditions in this permit are standard requirements for facilities of this size that discharge waste water to a high-flow stream.

What other ODEQ permits are required?

No other permits are currently required by this facility. Storm water controls for oil & grease discharges are included in this NPDES permit.

What similar activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?

No similar activities occur in adjacent areas.

What happens next?

ODEQ will schedule a public hearing if one is requested by 10 or more people, or by an authorized person representing an organization of at least 10 people. An additional public notice will be published to advertise the public hearing.

If a public hearing is not requested, ODEQ will consider and provide responses to all comments received at the close of the comment period. ODEQ may modify provisions in the proposed permit, but the permit writers can only modify conditions of the permit in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of ODEQ. Participation in the rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change the rules or statutes. Ultimately, if a facility meets all legal requirements, ODEQ will issue the facility's Water Quality permit.

Accessibility information

ODEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify ODEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact ODEQ Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call ODEQ's TTY number, (503) 229-5471.

GLS: PGE Beaver, DEQ Permit Template for Public Notice, 9Nov07.doc

Revised: 19Nov07